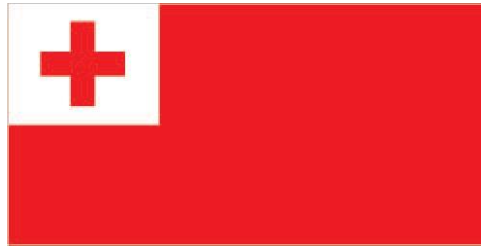




TONGA



INTRODUCTION

Tonga - unique among Pacific nations - never completely lost its indigenous governance. The archipelagos of "The Friendly Islands" were united into a Polynesian kingdom in 1845. Tonga became a constitutional monarchy in 1875 and a British protectorate in 1900. It withdrew from the protectorate and joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1970. Tonga remains the only monarchy in the Pacific.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

King TUPOU VI

Head of Government

Prime Minister Siaosi SOVALENI

Government Type

constitutional monarchy

Capital

Nuku'alofa

Legislature

unicameral Legislative Assembly or Fale Alea (up to 30 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 747 sq km
Land: 717 sq km
Water: 30 sq km

Climate

tropical; modified by trade winds; warm season (December to May), cool season (May to December)

Natural Resources

arable land, fish

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income Pacific island economy; enormous diaspora and remittance reliance; key tourism and agricultural sectors; major fish exporter; rapidly growing Chinese infrastructure investments; rising methamphetamine hub

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$667 million (2019 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$6,380 (2019 est.)

Industries - tourism, construction, fishing

Agricultural products - coconuts, gourds, cassava, sweet potatoes, vegetables, yams, taro, roots/tubers nes, plantains, lemons/limes

Exports \$90 million (2020 est.)

squash, fish, fruits and nuts, antiques, coral and shells (2019)

partners: US 38%, South Korea 18%, Australia 14%, NZ 14%, Japan 6%, (2019)

Imports \$300 million (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, poultry meats, audio equipment, mutton, goat meat, broadcasting equipment (2019)

partners: Fiji 29%, NZ 23%, China 14%, US 8%, Australia 6%, Japan 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

105,780 (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

-0.23% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Tongan 97%,
part-Tongan 0.8%,
other 2.2%, unspecified <0.1% (2016 est.)

Language

Tongan and English 76.8%, Tongan, English, and other language 10.6%, Tongan only (official) 8.7%, English only (official) 0.7%, other 1.7%, none 2.2% (2016 est.)

Religion

Protestant 64.1%, Church of Jesus Christ 18.6%, Roman Catholic 14.2%, other 2.4%, none 0.5%, unspecified 0.1% (2016 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 23.1% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 0.99% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

